

The Jobs and Growth Tax Act will generate nearly 1 million jobs by the end of next year by putting more money in the hands of consumers and giving businesses incentives to hire and invest.

The naysayers ask how can we afford a tax relief plan at a time when our country faces so many challenges. The real question ought to be how can we expect to meet those challenges while our economy is growing too slowly.

As Rick Wagoner, the chairman of General Motors, said when he endorsed the President's plan, "Growth goes a long way toward addressing what ails you."

Let us take that advice and create economic growth by passing the Jobs and Growth Tax Act. Vote "yes" on H.R. 2.

REJECT EDUCATION FUNDING CUTS

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on this House to reject the administration's education cuts. As a former superintendent of my State's public schools, I worked my entire life to improve education for our children.

Last Congress the administration promised to provide historic new funding to help our schools meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. Because of these promises, I voted with the overwhelming bipartisan majority to pass that legislation.

Now, as our schools struggle to avoid being labeled failing by the Department of Education, the administration has proposed massive cuts in educational funding. For the first 3 years of No Child Left Behind, the administration is proposing to underfund it by nearly \$20 billion. These education cuts will make it virtually impossible for our children and schools to meet the tough new standards imposed by the Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker, my State has led the Nation in raising performance standards in our schools, but tough requirements without real resources will amount to nothing but cruelty for our children and schools. Congress should call time out on the No Child Left Behind Act until the administration provides the funding it has promised to make it work.

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INCREASING BONUS DEPRECIATION PROVIDES IMMEDIATE JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the jobs and growth plan developed by the

gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. He has worked hard to include the best of President George W. Bush's solutions to provide more jobs for Americans and giving our economy an immediate boost. Particularly I am appreciative that bonus depreciation will be increased from 30 to 50 percent for 3 years, an initiative similar to the Business Expensing Act of 2003, which I introduced this year. This proposal was championed by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER), recognizing that when businesses can save money immediately on buying new equipment more money is put into the economy and more jobs are created.

The Heritage Foundation has estimated that this jobs and growth plan will create 1.2 million new jobs by the end of 2004 alone. Americans need jobs and the economy needs a boost right now. This plan is exactly the right plan at the right time.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

VOTE AGAINST WORKFORCE REINVESTMENT AND ADULT EDUCATION ACT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against H.R. 1261, the Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act. The unemployment rate in this country jumped to 6 percent last month, leaving 8.8 million Americans without a job. The Republican response to this crisis is a very weak bill that does nothing to create jobs for American workers. The bill also eliminates funding to provide job search and job training assistance to dislocated workers and to those affected by these mass layoffs. Moreover, this bill does nothing to restore the \$440 million in cuts already imposed on the job training programs of this Nation, nor does it protect against an additional \$265 million in proposed cuts for fiscal year 2004.

We need to enact legislation that creates jobs. This bill, coupled with another large tax cut, does nothing to help low-income workers who need relief from this struggling economy. What will it take for this administration to realize that their plans are not working? 7 percent unemployment? 10 percent unemployment?

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 1261 and the other legislation that leaves our Nation's unemployed workers behind.

IN SUPPORT OF THE TAX CUT PLAN

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I come from the Great Lakes

State of Michigan, the home to the big three auto industry companies who are, of course, all absolutely outstanding corporate citizens. Following the terrorist attacks on our Nation on September 11, the big three helped keep our economy moving by offering incentives, like zero interest financing. Without, I think, this very innovative idea, I believe we could have seen an even steeper downturn in our economy.

The economy needs stimulus and the President has offered a very strong jobs and economic growth package which I wholeheartedly support. During the President's recent visit to our State of Michigan, the leaders of the big three auto companies all endorsed the President's jobs package as the best idea to keep our economy rolling. They observed that by eliminating the double taxation of dividends that we would bring about a 6 to 15 percent increase in stock prices. Of course this would help employers to meet their responsibilities to retirees living on a pension and bolster the bottom line of every American with a 401(k).

The President's plan is the best way that we can help families and retirees by putting more money back in their pockets and allowing businesses to create more jobs. I support the President's plan, and I urge my colleagues to do so.

CONGRESS UNDERFUNDING NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND BILL

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, a few months ago on a bipartisan basis, we voted for the so-called Leave No Child Behind bill. But in the interim period, we have failed to meet our obligations, obligations that we have under that bill. We are underfunding the No Child Left Behind bill by \$11 billion. Yet the students across this country are going to be subjected to the tests mandated under that bill, the States are going to be required to fund these unfunded mandates and it is estimated that perhaps as many as 60 to 80 percent of our schools will be called failing schools.

Mr. Speaker, our students are not failing, our teachers are not failing, our schools are not failing. I will tell you who is failing: The President and those of us who serve in this Chamber. We are failing our schools, our teachers and our students.

RECOGNIZING UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AND ITS NEW CENTER FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (CART)

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an institution of